THE LION KING

A SHORT NOVEL

In the Pride Lands of Africa, a pride of lions rule over the animal kingdom from Pride Rock. King Mufasa's and Queen Sarabi's newborn son, Simba, is presented to the gathering animals by Rafiki, the wise mandrill and the kingdom's shaman and advisor.

One morning, Mufasa showed Simba the Pride Lands and explains to him the responsibilities of kingship and the "circle of life", which connects all living things. Mufasa also has a young brother, Scar, who covets the throne and plots to eliminate him and his son, so that he would become king.

He tricked Simba and his best friend Nala into exploring a forbidden elephants' graveyard, where they were under attack by hyenas led by their ruthless leader, Shenzi. Mufasa is alerted about the incident by his majordomo, Zazu, the hornbill and rescued the cubs.

Although he was upset with Simba and scolded him for putting Nala in great danger the future in full jeopardy, Mufasa then forgives him and explained to him that the great kings of the past watch over them from those stars in the night sky, from which he will one day watch over Simba. Meanwhile, Scar visits the hyenas and managed to convince them to help him overthrow Mufasa in exchange for hunting rights in the Pride Lands.

Scar sets up a trap for his brother and nephew, luring Simba into a gorge and having the hyenas driving a large herd of wildebeests into a stampede that will trample him. He informed Mufasa of Simba's peril, knowing that the king will rush to save his son. Mufasa saved Simba once more, but ends up hanging perilously from the edge of the gorge. Scar refuses to help Mufasa, so instead, he murdered Mufasa by sending him falling to his death. He then convinced Simba that the tragedy was all his fault and advised him to leave the kingdom and never return. He ordered the hyenas to kill the cub, but Simba escaped. Scar told the pride that both Mufasa and Simba were killed in the stampede and stepped forward as the new king, allowing Shenzi's army to live in the Pride Lands.

Simba collapsed in a desert and is rescued by a meerkat, Timon and a common warthog, Pumbaa, who are fellow outcasts and they took Simba to his new home in a beautiful African jungle. Simba grows up in the oasis with his two new friends and other animals in their oasis, living a carefree lifestyle under the motto, "Hakuna Matata", a phrase that which means "no worries" in Swahili.

Now a young adult, Simba managed to save Timon and Pumbaa in time from a hungry lioness, who turns out to be Nala. She and Simba reunite and fall in love, and she urges him to return home, telling him that the Pride Lands have become a drought-stricken wasteland under Scar's reign.

Feeling guilty over his father's death, Simba refused and storms off. He then encounters Rafiki, who tells him that Mufasa's spirit lives on in Simba. Simba is visited by Mufasa as the ghost in the night sky, who told him that he must take his rightful place as king. Realizing that he can no longer run from his past, Simba decided to return to the Pride Lands.

Aided by his friends, Simba sneaked past the hyenas at Pride Rock and confronted Scar, who was about to fight his mother, Sarabi. Then suddenly, Scar taunts Simba over his role in Mufasa's death and backs him to the edge of the rock, where he reveals to him that he murdered Mufasa.

Enraged in anger, Simba recovered himself from falling to his death and attempts to reveal the truth to the rest of the pride, while Scar, who previously claimed that he arrived too late at the gorge, attempts to deny it, but his knowledge of Mufasa's last moment exposes his role in Mufasa's death.

Timon, Pumbaa, Zazu, Rafiki and the lionesses fended off the hyenas while Scar was trying to escape, but he was cornered by Simba at a ledge near the top of Pride Rock. Scar begged for mercy and tried to put the blame of his crime on the hyenas; Simba spared his life but ordered him to leave the Pride Lands forever after he knew what Scar had just done to Mufasa.

But Scar refused to do what his nephew has told him to do and tried to attack him, but Simba manages to fight Scar back and threw him off the cliff after a brief fight. Scar managed to survive the fall but was then surrounded and attacked by the hyenas, who overheard his attempt to betray them, so they mauled and torn him to shreds which casues his death to come.

After the battle won, Simba's friends come forward and acknowledge Simba as the rightful king. He took over the kingship as his place and makes Nala his queen. With the Pride Lands restored to its usual state, Rafiki presents Simba and Nala's newborn cub to the assembled animals, continuing the circle of life.

THE END